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THE AFRICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION (AFSA)

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THE AFRICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION (AFSA)

The Second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers appointed a committee of three persons to make proposals for the revival of the Association of African Statisticians. The report of the committee, the proposed constitution of the association and its rules of procedure are attached as Annexes I, II and III.

Introduction

1. At the second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the history of the Association of African Statisticians (AAS) and the reasons for its inability to develop into a viable institution were examined. A small committee comprising Mr. Mitik Bayene, Manager of the Ethiopian Central Statistical Office, Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson, Deputy Chief, ECA Statistics Division and Mr. P. Andrianasolo, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Section, ECA Statistics Division, was set up to make arrangements for the revival of the Association before the next meeting of the Joint Conference in 1984. As stated in the report of the second Joint Conference, the committee was expected inter alia to deal with:

(a) finance, e.g., how a permanent secretariat should be supported;

(b) high turnover among statisticians, especially those holding high positions and its effect on membership;

(c) role of national statistical associations in AAS; and

(d) payment of subscriptions and type of currency to be used.

The committee met and agreed on the following steps:

(i) A preliminary enrolment form will be distributed to all African professional statisticians and other nationals working in Africa;

(ii) A draft constitution will be prepared and circulated to all those who have completed the preliminary enrolment form for their comments and a final indication as to whether they wish to become members of the revived African Statistical Association (AFSA);

(iii) The draft constitution will then be finalized by the small committee taking into account the comments received;

(iv) A postal vote to approve the constitution will then be taken;

(v) The committee will act as a Nomination Committee which will propose candidates for the officers and Council of the AFSA;

(vi) The names of the persons nominated by the committee will then be communicated to the Joint Conference which may also wish to nominate additional candidates;

(vii) Other members can also propose alternative candidates in the manner prescribed in the constitution;

(viii) There will be a postal vote for the officers and members of the Council of the AFSA.

2. Preliminary enrolment forms were sent out in August 1982. So far about 400 forms have been completed and sent back to ECA. Those who completed the enrolment forms can be regarded as prospective members.

3. A draft constitution had also been prepared and forwarded to all persons who had completed the preliminary enrolment form for them to propose any amendment that they wish to make. As soon as these comments were received, the constitution was revised. Annex II is a copy of the revised draft constitution.

Draft Constitution

4. As indicated in the previous section, the draft constitution was circulated to prospective members of the Association and a number of comments was received from them. These related to the name and membership of the Association, the president-elect and the functions of the Secretary General. It was pointed out by some members that the name "Association of African Statisticians" was inconsistent with the provision that members could be non-Africans and therefore either non-Africans should be excluded from membership or the name should be changed. The Committee examined this proposal thoroughly and decided that since it was essential to have in the Association non-Africans who work or have worked as statisticians in Africa, it was better to change the name to the African Statistical Association which did not imply the exclusion of non-Africans from membership. The Association however will be mainly for African statisticians and there should not be any fear that non-Africans would have a controlling interest in it.

5. The second issue related to the office of president-elect. Some members did not see the need for having a president-elect and preferred to have all officers elected at the same time. The Committee examined this question and took into account that it is now a convention for all international associations of repute to have the post of president-elect, e.g. the International Statistical Institute, the International Association of Survey Statisticians, the International Association of Statistical Computing, the Bernouilli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, the International Association for Regional and Urban Statisticians and the American Statistical Association, all have established the post of president-elect. This ensures some form of continuity from one term of office to the next. It also implies that when a president-elect is being elected, members have to bear in mind that he will automatically be the next president and thus care has to be exercised in his selection. The Committee therefore decided to keep the post of president-elect.

6. Another question which was raised was the Office of Treasurer for which no separate provisions had been made in the draft constitution. It was the intention of the Committee that the Secretary-General should carry out the functions of Treasurer subject of course to auditing. In order to remove any ambiguity in the text of the constitution therefore the Committee has proposed the establishment of the office of the Secretary-General and Treasurer.

The administrative and financial secretariat

7. The Committee had a thorough discussion of this subject and decided that interim arrangements should be made for the functions of the administrative and financial secretariat to be carried out by the ECA Statistics Division but in such a way that the resources of the Association will be completely separate from those of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The Committee also agreed to propose to the Joint Conference that it will be preferable for a host national statistical office or other statistical institution to offer to provide accommodation and other services for the

administrative and financial secretariat. It may be recalled that such services have been provided by the Netherlands Statistical Office for the International Statistical Institute and by ENSEE for the International Association of Survey Statisticians. A similar arrangement by the Association and a host institution will be in the best interests of the statisticians in the African region. The Joint Conference is therefore invited to discuss this issue and to solicit offers of host facilities for the Association from national statistical offices and other statistical institutions within the African region. It should however be noted that the Government in the country in which such institution is situated will need to clear these arrangements since there are certain privileges which should be attached to the international association.

8. The constitution and rules of procedure as proposed by the committee taking into account the comments of prospective members are attached. In preparing these, the statutes and bylaws of the International Statistical Institute were consulted. The Rules of Procedures are largely based on the latter.

High turn-over among statisticians

9. The Committee had been asked in its terms of reference to examine the high turn-over among statisticians and to assess especially the effect on membership of the association of this high turn-over among those holding high positions. The Committee examined this question but noted that since the Association was mainly one of individual members and not an association of statistical institutions, a change in the designation of a member should not necessarily have an adverse effect on the association since the member can in his new position continue to contribute to the success of the work of the Association. The committee also decided that in order to reflect the individual nature of the membership of the Association all officers to be elected should come from the different statistical disciplines and not be confined to the field of official statistics.

Role of national statistical associations in the Association

10. The committee examined thoroughly the role which national associations can play in the Association. The committee decided that one of the objectives of the African Statistical Association should be to encourage the establishment of national statistical associations. This objective has been duly incorporated in article 2 of the constitution. It also decided that national statistical associations should be admitted as institutional members of the association.

11. In this connexion it should be borne in mind that the development of national statistical associations will have an important role to play in the integration of statistics at the national level. This will help also to establish a regular dialogue between the producers of statistics and user institutions in individual countries since most of the user institutions also employ statisticians to help them to interpret statistical data. National associations therefore can encourage the specification of applications in the field of statistics and thus help in defining the types of analysis needed to satisfy these applications. These national associations in turn can also act as recruitment agents for the association and thus help it to develope in a healthy and satisfactory way.

Payment of subscriptions

12. The committee examined the current economic situation in the African countries, foreign exchange restrictions which are maintained in most of them and the effects of these on the payment of subscriptions. It also examined proposals which have been made for solving these problems in other international organizations. These proposals have included the use of UNESCO coupons in those countries where members may have no ready access to foreign exchange or international money order facilities. It was however pointed out that although the possibility exists for the use of UNESCO coupons, most Africans have found it difficult to make use of it for payment of subscriptions to international organizations and that this difficulty will be encountered by the members of the association. Another approach was to designate certain zones, say in the ECOWAS countries, where payment could be made in one currency and kept in a national "sub-regional" office of the association so that when the amount reaches a certain level it can be used for an activity within the sub-region. This has been tried with Eastern European countries but it has not been very successful.

13. In view of these difficulties the committee was not able to reach a concensus on this issue but recommended that initially membership dues of only US$5 should be charged for members and the question of how this fee is to be paid should be examined at the Joint Conference.

Nominations for Council

14. The following are nominated for the offices indicated below. For each office, there are two nominations. The consent of those involved has not been sought. This will be done as soon as the Joint Conference approves the report of the committee and the list of nominees for office:

President:	B. Afonja (Nigeria) or L. Diop (Senegal)
President-elect:	C. Miéressa (Congo) or L.B. Monyake (Lesotho)
Vice-President:	
North Africa	Tadili Faris (Morocco) or Omer El Tay (Sudan)
West Africa	S.I.K. Odoom (Ghana) or Denis Traore (Mali)
Central Africa	M. Baleba (Cameroon) or Clement Enegani (C.A.R.)
East and Southern Africa	T.A. Rabetsitonta or D.J. Mzite (Zimbabwe) (Madagascar)
Secretary-General and Treasurer	Mitik Weyene (Ethiopia) or Ousmane Balde (Guinea)
Editor-in-chief	Tona Makannah (Sierra Leone) or A. Amelewonou (Togo)
Auditors:	Mpoyi Nankonda (Zaire) or B. Kiregyira (Uganda)

15. The Joint Conference is invited to approve or amend the above list, taking into account both language and geographical distribution.

Conclusion

16. This brief report summarises the various proposals to reactivate the association. The question of payment of dues has been referred to the Joint Conference for further discussion. The committee proposes that the Joint Conference should also approve the constitution of the association to enable it to start functioning with effect from 15 March 1964, with the Statistics Division of ECA providing initial supporting services.

CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

TITLE I

PURPOSES AND COMPOSITION

ARTICLE 1

Name

The African Statistical Association (AFSA), hereinafter called the "Association", was established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 1984.

ARTICLE 2

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be:

(a) To promote the development of both pure and applied statistics in the African region.

(b) To ensure the more effective contribution of statistics and enhance its usefulness, particularly to administration, policy formulation, planning for socio-economic development and research

(c) To provide the opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experience among statisticians

(d) To foster the professional status of statisticians

(e) To promote methodological and substantive research in the fields of statistics

(f) To encourage the establishment of national statistical associations

(g) To establish and maintain links with national and international statistical association.

ARTICLE 3

Headquarters

The headquarters of the Association shall be provisionally located at the office responsible for statistics in the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.

The activities, assets and liabilities of the Association shall be separate from those of the office in which its headquarters is located.

ARTICLE 4

Membership

The Association shall be composed of ordinary, honorary and institutional members whose applications have been accepted by the Council. All ordinary members have the right to vote.

Ordinary Members

Professional statisticians, African and non-African, who work or have worked as statisticians in Africa may be admitted as ordinary members.

Honorary Members

Persons of outstanding distinction in the field of statistics, who have rendered valuable services to Africa, may be admitted as honorary members.

Institutional Members

Institutions such as national and international statistical associations and agencies operating in Africa, African banks, African national institutes and academies of science may be admitted as institutional members.

ARTICLE 5

Dues

Ordinary and institutional members are required to pay such annual dues as are determined by the Council and approved by a simple majority of members voting either in a General Assembly or by postal ballot. The modalities for the payment of dues are stated in the Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE 6

Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated by:

Resignation

Death

Non-payment of dues for a specified period as fixed by the Council, or expulsion by decision of the General Assembly

TITLE II

ORGANIZATION AND POWERS

Organs

The organs of the Association shall comprise:

The General Assembly

The Council

The Executive Committee

The Administrative and Financial Secretariat

ARTICLE 9

The General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Association shall be constituted by ordinary, honorary and institutional members convened by the Secretary-General and Treasurer of the Association after consultation with the President or as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Association. The General Assembly shall approve the general policies and recommendations of the Council for implementation by the Executive Committee. The General Assembly shall be held at least once every two years. In case it is not possible to hold a full General Meeting during the two year period, proposals which would otherwise have been submitted to the General Assembly will be submitted for a postal ballot.

Extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly may be convened on the initiative of the Council or if a group of at least fifty ordinary members so request. The procedure for convening such meetings shall be as specified in the Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE 9

The Council

The affairs of the Association shall be directed by a Council. The Council shall comprise:

The President

The President-elect

Four vice-presidents

The Secretary-General and Treasurer

The Editor-in-chief of the Journal of African Statistical Association (JASA)

Not more than four other members

The Association shall be represented by its President or his representative In the absence of the President, the President-elect shall of right assume all the functions of the President.

The Council will meet once every two years to review the activities of the last 2 years, formulate the work programme and approve the budget for the following 2 years.

Extraordinary sessions of the Council may be convened by the President to examine urgent questions relating to the Association.

The Council may organize a postal ballot of members as it thinks fit, provided that at least 30 days elapse between the date on which the Council dispatches to members the announcement of the vote and the date on which the ballots are counted.

ARTICLE 10

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will comprise the President, the President-elect, the Secretary-General and Treasurer and the Editor-in-chief of the Association. It shall be responsible for:

(a) The implementation of the work programme of the Association,

(b) Determining the working procedures of the various services of the Association,

(c) Preparing the budget for the Association and submitting it to the Council for approval,

(d) Determining the provisional agenda for Council and General Assembly meetings,

(e) Taking such actions as appropriate and necessary for the proper functioning of the Association.

The Executive Committee will meet once a year. Extraordinary sessions may be convened as required.

ARTICLE 11

The Administrative and Financial Secretariat

The day to day activities of the Association shall be carried out by an Administrative and Financial Secretariat under an Executive Secretary who will be appointed by the Council of the Association. The composition of the secretariat will be determined by the Council on the advice of the Executive Secretary. Until the finances of the Association permit full-time or part-time staff of the Administrative and Financial Secretariat to be appointed, the Statistics Division of ECA will carry out the functions of the secretariat.

ARTICLE 12

The Auditors

The accounts of the Association shall be audited annually by the auditors appointed by the General Assembly as specified in the Rules of Procedure. The appointment of the auditors may also be made by members through a postal ballot.

ARTICLE 13

Tenure of Office

The terms of office within the Council shall be as follows:

President: The term of office of the President shall be two years.

President-elect: The President-elect shall serve in that capacity for a period of two years, after which he shall automatically become President. A new President-elect shall then be elected.

Vice-President: The term of office of the Vice-President shall be two years.

Secretary General and Treasurer, Editor-in-chief and other members of the Board: The terms of office of the Secretary-General and Treasurer, the Editor-in-chief and other members of the Council shall be two years.

Except for the President and President-elect, members of the Council may be re-elected, provided that they do not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

The Council shall have the power to fill any vacancies in the Council that may be re-elected, provided that they do not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

The Council shall have the power to fill any vacancies on the Council that may arise during its term of office.

ARTICLE 14

Elections

Elections of members of the Council shall be held at the Ordinary General Assembly of the Association or by postal ballot. Candidates may be nominated either by the Nominations Committee set up by the Council or by ordinary members in the manner prescribed in the Rules of Procedure. Nominations must be despatched in time to reach the Executive Secretary at least 90 days before the announced date for the meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly or the despatch of the postal ballot forms. For each office, at least two candidates must be nominated. The names of the candidates shall be sent to all members at least 60 days before the date set for the General Assembly. Election shall be by a simple majority of votes cast. Those to be elected must be ordinary members of the Association.

ARTICLE 15

Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the Association are attached to the present Constitution. The Council may propose amendments thereto and apply such amendments provisionally between sessions of the Ordinary General Assembly.

The Rules of Procedure and amendments thereto shall be submitted for the approval of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 16

Working Languages

The working languages of the Association shall be English and French.

TITLE III

RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURE

ARTICLE 17

Resources

The Resources of the Association shall comprise:

- Dues,
- Proceeds from the Association's activities, and
- Subsidies, Gifts and other resources negotiated or accepted by the Council.

ARTICLE 18

Expenditure

Expenditure shall be authorized by the Executive.

The Executive Secretary shall keep accounts of receipts and expenditure. Such accounts shall be held at the disposal of the auditors and the members of the Council. Any member of the Association may inspect the accounting records of the Association.

TITLE IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 19

Amendments to Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure may be proposed either by the Council or by no less than twelve members whose proposal is despatched in time to reach the Council at least 90 days before the date fixed for an ordinary General Assembly. All such proposals must be brought to the notice of the members of the Association by a communication from the Council despatched at least 60 days before the date fixed for the meeting. Proposals receiving a two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be carried.

ARTICLE 20

Affiliation

The Association may make the necessary arrangements for affiliation to the International Statistical Institute, whose seat is at the Hague, or to any other international association of statisticians. A scientific organization which consists mainly of individual members and does not exist for profit may become affiliated to the Association upon approval by the Council if it substantially furthers the objectives of the Association and is either a national or international organization in the African region or a national or international organization outside Africa but which is devoted primarily to the improvement of African statistics.

ARTICLE 21

Dissolution

The dissolution of the Association may be decided by the General Assembly or by postal ballot for reasons of expediency. In that event, the property, funds and records of the Association shall be assigned to the International Statistical Institute, the Hague, or to any other similar scientific association designated by name in the decision, which agrees to accept such responsibility. Such assignment must be made within the three months following dissolution of the Association.

TITLE V

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 22

The time limits prescribed in Article 14 shall not apply to the election of the first Council, which shall be held at the first session of the ordinary General Assembly or by postal ballot.

ARTICLE 23

As an interim measure, the ad hoc committee appointed by the second joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers will carry out the functions entrusted to the Nominations Committee as far as the first elections are concerned.

AFRICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. ORGANIZATION

1.1 Organs

The Association's principal organs shall be:

(a) The General Assembly

(b) The Council

(c) The Executive Committee

(d) The Administrative and Financial Secretariat

1.2. Composition and functions of the General Assembly

(a) The General Assembly shall be composed of ordinary, honorary and institutional members.

(b) The governance of the Association, as regards both its administration and its scientific affairs, is vested in the General Assembly which may convene in ordinary and extraordinary sessions.

(c) The Association's ordinary sessions shall usually be held in alternate years. At each ordinary session the General Assembly will draw up a scheme for the time and place of future ordinary sessions. At the following ordinary session the General Assembly may, however, revise the scheme so far as future sessions are concerned. However, the Council may alter the time and place of a session if an emergency makes such a change desirable. If at least one and one-half years have elapsed since the preceding ordinary session, any session of the Association must be an ordinary session.

(d) In case for financial and other reasons an ordinary session can be convened, all proposals which would otherwise have been submitted to the General Assembly shall be submitted to members by mail.

(e) Decisions by the General Assembly may be taken either through personal vote at the ordinary sessions and, if so stated in the Rules of Procedure, at the extraordinary sessions, or through mail vote.

1.3 Composition and functions of the Council

(a) The Council shall be composed of

the Officers of the Association namely, the President, the President-elect, the Secretary-General and Treasurer, and the Editor-in-chief;

the four Vice-Presidents;

other members, not exceeding four in number elected by the Association. In addition, the Chief of the ECA Statistics Division may be co-opted as an ex-officio member.

(b) The Council shall formulate the policies and programmes of the Association in accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly.

(c) The Council shall make decisions as to the meaning of any part of the constitution and Rules of Procedure concerning which there is a conflict of opinion.

(d) The Council shall appoint a committee of at least five ordinary members of the Association to nominate Officers of the Association, the Vice-Presidents and elected members of the Council.

(e) The Council is authorized to admit as institutional members national and international statistical agencies and such cultural, educational and scientific institutions, and commercial, industrial or business enterprises, that, in the opinion of the Council, may substantially contribute to the aims of the Association.

(f) The Council may establish committees in the work of which non-members of the Association may be invited to participate.

(g) The Council may admit scientific organizations as affiliated to the Association in the manner prescribed in Article 20.

(h) The Council shall meet at each session of the Association and on such other occasions as convened by the President. A quorum shall be formed if at least 2 Vice-Presidents, 2 elected members and 3 Officers are present. The Council may reach its decisions by correspondence whenever it deems this to be expedient.

(i) Except as otherwise provided by the Constitution

(i) action by the Council shall be by simple majority of the votes cast;

(ii) in the event of a tie, the presiding officer shall have a casting vote, in addition to his ordinary vote.

1.4 Composition and functions of the Executive Committee

(a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Association's Officers. The Officers shall be the President, the President-elect, the Secretary-General and Treasurer and the Editor-in-chief of the Association. The Executive Secretary shall be in attendance.

(b) The Executive Committee directs the Association in conformity with the Constitution and Rules of Procedure and guidelines of the General Assembly and the Council. It is the duty of the Executive Committee to see that sufficient guidance is given to the Administrative and Financial Secretariat so that actual operations reflect the general orientations given by the General Assembly and the Governing Council.

(c) The Executive Committee shall appoint the Executive Secretary of the Administrative and Financial Secretariat and fix the compensations of the Executive Secretary and other personnel of the Administrative and Financial secretariat.

(d) The Executive Committee shall make, in co-operation with an organizing committee in the host country, the arrangements for each session of the Association.

(e) The Executive Committee may invite persons who are not members of the Association to participate in any specified session of the Association. Such persons shall have the privilege of attendance at and participation in scientific discussions without voting.

(f) The Executive Committee shall meet on call of the President or of three of its members. Three of its members shall be a quorum. The Executive Committee may reach its decisions by correspondence whenever it deems this to be expedient.

(g) The President, subject to the decisions of the General Assembly or of the Council, shall have general responsibility for the execution of the policies and decisions of these bodies. He shall preside over meetings of the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Committee. The President shall have the authority to exercise any functions prescribed for the Executive Committee if unforseen circumstances make such action necessary; but he shall promptly notify the Executive Committee of the action taken and the circumstances which necessitated it.

(h) The President may designate each of the members of the Executive Committee to be in charge of the supervision of specific administrative or scientific activities of the Association; he shall in any case designate a member, with the task of co-ordinating the scientific programme of the sessions and another member to facilitate liaison between the Executive Committee and the Administrative and Financial secretariat.

(i) In the event that the Presidency is vacant or that the President is for any reason unable to fulfil his responsibilities, the President-elect shall be Acting President until the President shall again be able to serve, or until the term of office of the President shall be completed. If for any reason the President-elect is unable to fulfil these responsibilities, a Vice-President shall be Acting President in his place. Solely for this purpose, (i) the order of the Vice-Presidents shall be determined by the total length of time which each has served in the Executive Committee; and (ii) as between any two or more Vice Presidents having equal length of such service, the order shall be determined by the total length of time which each has been a member of the Association; or (iii) in case there are two or more Vice-Presidents having equal length of service and equal length of membership, age shall be the determining factor, the oldest of the Vice-Presidents being the preferred candidate.

(j) The Executive Committee shall submit to the General Assembly at each ordinary session of the Association a report of the Association's activities since the previous such report and a proposed programme of work for the immediate future.

1.5 Composition and functions of the Administrative and Financial secretariat

(a) The Administrative and Financial secretariat shall have an Executive Secretary and such subordinates as the Executive Committee shall authorize him to employ. The Executive Secretary shall be the Head of the Administrative and Financial secretariat and act as Secretary of the Association.

(b) The Administrative and Financial secretariat shall be located at the headquarters of the Association. Under the supervision of the Executive Committee, the Executive Secretary shall be in charge of the administrative and scientific activities of the Association. No person shall simultaneously be Executive Secretary and a member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary need not be a member of the Association.

(c) Subject to the direction of the Executive Committee, the Secretary shall record or have recorded the minutes of sessions of the Association and of meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee, issue or have issued all notices of such sessions and meetings and receive, have custody of and disburse the Association's funds under the direction of the Secretary-General and Treasurer.

2. FINANCE

2.1 Administrative of Finance

The financial affairs of the Association shall be administered by the Secretary-General and Treasurer who shall work in close collaboration with the President and under the general direction of the Executive Committee. The Secretary-General and Treasurer will be assisted in his duties by the Executive Secretary. The President shall authorize all expenditures.

2.2 Dues

(a) Members of the Association shall pay annual dues except they are excused by a resolution of the General Assembly.

(b) The amount of annual dues shall be determined by the General Assembly on the advice of the Council.

(c) Members who fail to pay dues for two consecutive years and are not excused from paying shall be considered as having resigned. Such members may be reinstated by a resolution of the Council upon payment of outstanding dues.

2.3 Other Resources

(a) The Council shall be empowered, if necessary, to charge a registration fee to members attending a conference organized by the Association.

(b) The Council may negotiate or accept, on behalf of the Association, gifts, subsidies or any other resources.

2.4 Auditors

(a) The General Assembly shall appoint auditors, who shall examine the books, vouchers and accounts of the Association and determine whether they have been properly kept.

(b) The auditors who shall not exceed two in number may be elected by the General Assembly or through a postal ballot. The nominations of auditors shall be made by the Nominations Committee.

(c) The report of the auditors shall be submitted to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General and Treasurer.

3. NOMINATIONS

(a) As provided for under section 1.3(d) above, the Council shall set up a Nominations Committee of at least five ordinary members belonging to different countries.

(b) The tenure of office shall be two years with the possibility of individual members of the Committee being appointed for a further term.

(c) The Nominations Committee shall propose for each elected post two candidates taking into account geographical distribution, balance in discipline and sector of activity. The list of such nominees should be forwarded to reach the Executive Secretary at least 90 days before the date of the elections.

(d) The Nominations Committee shall conduct its business by mail or at the ordinary sessions of the General Assembly.

(e) Nominations forwarded to the Executive Secretary shall contain a statement of the candidate's present position(s) and of his scientific publications. Such information will be included in the list of nominations forwarded to members for election of officers and council.

(f) Alternative nominations may be submitted by at least ten members in good standing to the Executive Secretary to reach him at least 60 days before the announced date of the elections.

4. EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS

(a) Extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly may be convened on the initiative of the Council or if a group of at least fifty ordinary members from at least five different countries so request. The purpose of the session should be stated explicitly in the request for the meeting.

(b) The exact date and place of the extraordinary session shall be determined by the Council, in consultation with those who requested the meeting.

(c) Extraordinary sessions shall not exceed three working days.